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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS, et al.

Atty. Ref.: 2551-126

Appl. No. 09/899,046

Group: 1648

Filed: July 6, 2001

Examiner: WORTMAN

For: NEW SEQUENCE OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS GENOTYPES AND THEIR USE AS  
THERAPEUTIC AND DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

September 22, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

Responsive to the Official Action dated August 22, 2003, the applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I, for further prosecution in the above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested as the subject matter of the Examiner's four Groups are all classified by the Patent Office in the same class and subclass, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action of August 22, 2003. The identical classification of the subject matter is indicative of the subject matter not being recognized as defining separately patentable subject matter. Moreover, the search of a single class and subclass for all the claimed subject matter would presumably not require an undue burden of the Examiner.

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An early and favorable Action on the merits of all the claimed subject matter is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: 

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